

CITY Visions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • MAY 2003




Parks Improvements Enhance Recreational, Family Fun

WITH THE thought of improv-


ing recreational and family

use, improvements to two of the

community's more extensively used parks are moving steadily ahead. Construction of these improvements for both parks will begin this summer. New play equipment will be installed in Paradise Park along with improvements designed to make the play area more accessible. The asphalt pathway that circumvents the park will be repaired in places where root damage has occurred. This project is currently in the final phase of design. Two previous community meetings were held with neighbors to incorporate their input. Construction will start in late August to avoid disrupting the high use period during the summer – while still completing the project before the rainy season. Galvan Park, meanwhile, will soon receive new concrete curbs bordering the area that lies just off Crest between the parking lot and the ball field. The project will also remove and replace all the concrete in and around the handball court. This work is anticipated to be completed in the late summer. Work on the baseball backstop and restrooms is planned for next year. 

The Magic of the Arts

THE RECREATION & Community Services Division and the Police Department are combining efforts to bring a day of art and safety to families with children ages infant to 11 years. Art ala Carte and the Children's Safety Faire will be held at the Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center on Saturday, May 17 from 11am - 3pm.

There will be at least 15 different hands-on art projects to express creativity and several safety activities to explore and collect valuable information. See page five for more information. 



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- block grant awards
- direct pay your water bill
- pet owners licensing requirements
- residents can save with home improvement programs

Block Grant Funds Awarded

EACH YEAR the City of Morgan Hill receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the County to fund public services and improvements. The City has participated in the CDBG program since 1977 and will receive \$172,200 for FY03-04 of which approximately \$35,366 can be used for Public Services.

For fiscal year 2003-2004, the City Council awarded CDBG funds to the following:

Catholic Charities, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program which provides advocacy, investigation of complaints and problem resolution services for senior in Morgan Hill nursing facilities and residential/care facilities. Grant: \$2,415;

Second Harvest Food Bank, Operation Brown Bag which provides Morgan Hill senior residents with a weekly bag of groceries, program newsletters, volunteer opportunities and recognition events. Grant: \$3,465;

Live Oak Adult Day Services, Adult Day Care which provides adult day care for disabled, dependent, low-income seniors with entertainment, companionship, arts and crafts, music, children and pet visits, meals, etc. Grant: \$3,990;


Community Solutions, El Toro Youth Center and Friday Night Jams which provides tutoring, leadership-building skills, participatory recreation, and health, mental health and substance abuse education for school aged children. Friday Night Jams provides "at risk" youth a positive alternative to gangs, drugs, alcohol, frustration and simple boredom. Grant: \$15,500;

St. Catherine's Parish, South Valley Day Worker Program which provides employment-related services, including but not limited to job readiness, job search and placement, job retention, classes and information and referral services to other social service program. Grant: \$5,000; and

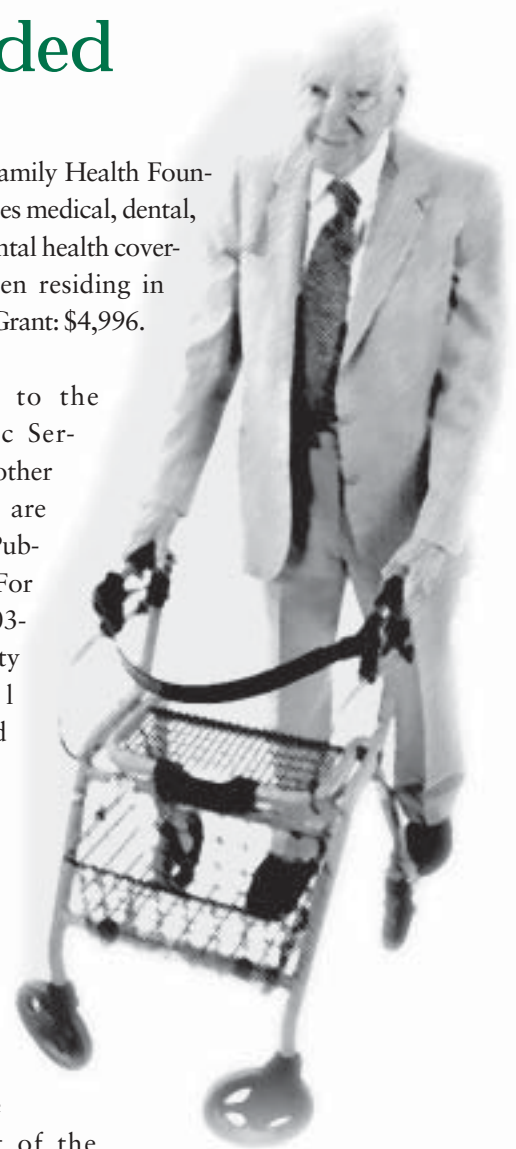
Santa Clara Family Health Foundation, provides medical, dental, vision and mental health coverage to children residing in Morgan Hill. Grant: \$4,996.

In addition to the above Public Services grants, other CDBG funds are available for Public Facilities. For fiscal year 2003-2004, the City Council awarded CDBG funds to the following:
City of Morgan Hill, Galvan Park Improvements for the replacement of the handball court, baseball back-stop structure, existing rest room and landscape beautification. Grant: \$86,834; and

Emergency Housing Consortium, Sobrato Transitional Center which will provide a 140-bed emergency shelter/transitional center providing comprehensive support services for homeless people in South County. Grant: \$50,000.

Should you have questions regarding these programs, please contact the Department of Business Assistance and Housing Services at 776-7373. 

Article by Teresa Crue Municipal Services Assistant, 776-7373 or cruet@morgan-hill.ca.gov



Paying your water and sewer bill just got easier!

For your convenience, the City of Morgan Hill is offering Direct Pay via electronic deduction from a checking account for payment of your water bill. As long as you maintain adequate funds in the account there are:

- **NO fees for Direct Pay services**
- **NO check writing and mailing chores**
- **NO late payment penalties**
- **NO more lost payments or checks**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for Direct Pay?

All residential and commercial water customers billed by the City of Morgan Hill are eligible for Direct Pay. Your account must be current and not subject to other existing payment arrangements.

When does Direct Pay start?

Approximately 30 days after receipt of the enrollment form.

To begin Direct Pay, please complete the form below and return it with your current payment. When the application has been processed, you will be sent a confirmation letter stating that Direct Pay service will begin with your next water and sewer bill.

How does it work?

You will continue to receive your monthly water and sewer bill. "Direct Pay - Do Not Send Payment" will be printed on the bill, letting you know that Direct Pay is active. Review your bill carefully, and call the City immediately if you have any questions about your bill. Typically on the Friday before the "due date", the amount shown on the bill will be automatically paid from your checking account. Your checking account statement from your bank or financial institution will clearly identify the charges.

DIRECT PAY Enrollment

**APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT
A SIGNATURE AND VOIDED CHECK!**

Please include the completed form with your current payment. You will receive confirmation of enrollment, including the anticipated date of your first deduction within 21 days. Please call the Finance Department at 408-779-7221 if you have any questions.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		-					-		

Water & Sewer Account Number

Name(s) on the Account

Service Address

City, State, Zip Code

Home Phone

Work Phone

I/We hereby authorize the City of Morgan Hill and the financial institution listed on the attached voided check to deduct from my/our checking account payment for my/our water and sewer bill. I/We understand that both the City of Morgan Hill and my/our financial institution reserve the right to terminate this authorization and my/our participation therein. If I/we choose to terminate this authorization, I/we will immediately notify the City of Morgan Hill.

Signature

Print Your Name

Are You A Responsible Pet Owner?

ANIMAL CONTROL Services has been receiving many complaints regarding barking dogs, unrestrained and unlicensed dogs in the city. Most of these complaints can be resolved with the cooperation of responsible pet owners. The Municipal Code provides for issuance of citations to owners failing to comply with the Codes. For your convenience, the applicable codes are as follows:

SECTION 6.12.020 DOGS—RESTRAINT REQUIRED—EXCEPTIONS

The owner or person with the right to the control of any dog or dogs shall keep such dog or dogs confined to said person's own premises within such enclosures as may be appropriate or dogs may be restrained by means of a leash sufficient to keep the dog upon the premises, such leash to be capable of restraining at least four times the weight of such dog ...

SECTION 6.12.030 DOGS—LICENSE REQUIRED

No person shall maintain or board any dog four months of age or older which has not been licensed pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 6.04 through 6.32 of this title...

SECTION 6.24.02 PUBLIC NUISANCES

- A. No person owning or having control of any animal shall permit such animal to do any of the following:
1. Defecate or urinate on private properties in the neighborhood or community, other than that of the owner or the person having control of the animal;
 2. Defecate or urinate on public property without immediately cleaning or removing the excrement to a proper receptacle;
 3. Permit an animal to obstruct the reasonable and comfortable use of property in any neighborhood or community by chasing vehicles, molesting or biting passersby;
 4. Permit unsanitary conditions to exist on the premises where the animal is kept which would cause odors, attract flies or vermin, or otherwise be injurious to public health and safety, or indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by the neighborhood, community or persons;




5. Keep, maintain, cause or permit to be kept or maintained any dog, cat or other animal or fowl, whether licensed or not, which by habitual howling, yelping, barking or other noise, disturbs or annoys a number of persons in any neighborhood, and each day that such disturbance is permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

- B. The animal control officer, or any peace officer, may seize and impound any animal causing a public nuisance.
- C. A violation of this section is declared to be a public nuisance.
- D. Any private person may maintain an action under Civil Code Section 3493 for enforcement of this chapter declaring certain acts a public nuisance, if such acts are specially injurious to such person.

SECTION 6.24.030 ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE

It is unlawful for any person owning or having control of any animal, whether licensed or not, to cause, permit or allow such animal to stray or run at large upon any public street or other public place, or upon any private place or property or common area of any planned development, cluster, townhouse or condominium project without the consent of the owner or person in control thereof, except that nothing contained in this section shall apply to dogs on a leash, held by a person capable of controlling the dog, or to cats.

For more information, please call Animal Control Services at 776-7300. 

Article by Patti Yinger, Police Support Services Supervisor; 776-7300 or patty@morgan-bill.ca.gov

4th Annual

ART a la carte

presented by
The City of Morgan Hill Recreation and Community Services
and the Morgan Hill Police Department



Children's Safety Fair

co-sponsored by



MAGIC OF THE ARTS



A day of creative art workshops, safety information
and MAGIC for children ages infant -11.
All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sat. May 17th
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Magic Mike's Funhouse Show

In the Community Playhouse
10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. • 2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Limited number of tickets to the magic show available.
Advance tickets to Art a la Carte and
Magic Show available starting May 1st
at the Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center.

At least 15 different art projects to explore

FREE

* **Face Painting** *

* **Magic Wands** *

* **Milagro Mobiles** *
(special charms)

* **Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** *

Wear your Play Clothes * Dress for Mess

Safety Fair Programs

* **Bike Rodeo** *

* **Child Seat & Anti-Drug** *
Information Tables


* **McGruff** *

* **K-9 Demo** *

For tickets and information call 408-782-0008

Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center • 17000 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill


Home Improvement Program Helps Residents

IS YOUR home or rental property in disrepair? Does it need a new roof, plumbing, kitchen, bathroom, garage door, painting, landscaping, or other costly repairs? If so, the Redevelopment Agency's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program may be able to help. This program is designed to help Morgan Hill property owners improve their property. Loans of up to \$40,000 for single-family homes or \$65,000 for apartment buildings are available for applicants meeting income limitations. Interest rates as low as 3.75% are available and vary depending upon the income level of the applicant or occupants of the property. To learn more, contact Steve Pendleton at the Business Assistance and Housing Services Department at 776-7373 or at bahs@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. 

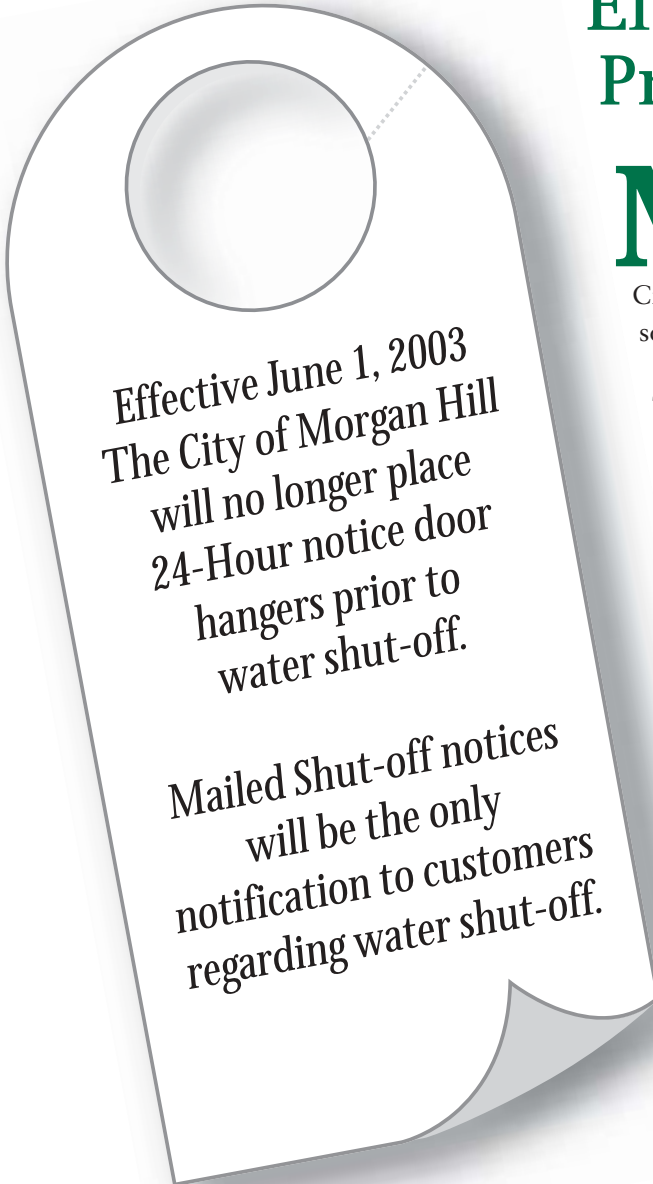
City Residents Eligible for 15% Premium Reduction

MANY RESIDENTS are required to obtain costly flood insurance because their property is located in a flood prone area of the community. Due to the combined efforts of the City and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, these premiums will soon be reduced by 15%!

The Community Rating System (CRS) is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. The CRS program recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed minimum standards. Under CRS, flood insurance premium rates are adjusted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community activities that reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance rating, and promote the awareness of flood insurance. SCVWD's efforts have resulted in a Class 9 rating, which translates into a 5% discount on flood insurance policies county-wide. The City of Morgan Hill's additional flood plain management and education efforts will result in a Class 7 rating, or an additional 10% reduction (for a total of 15%) effective May 1, 2003. City residents paying flood insurance premiums that are due on, or after, May 1st will automatically receive the 15% reduction.

Unfortunately, the program does not "prorate" the discount. In other words, if a resident were to pay a premium due in April, they would have to wait until their next premium due date to realize any savings. FEMA will present a plaque at the May 7th City Council meeting to recognize the City's efforts. 

Article by Glenn Ritter, Contract Engineer, 776-7337 or glennr@morgan-hill.ca.gov



Effective June 1, 2003
The City of Morgan Hill
will no longer place
24-Hour notice door
hangers prior to
water shut-off.

Mailed Shut-off notices
will be the only
notification to customers
regarding water shut-off.

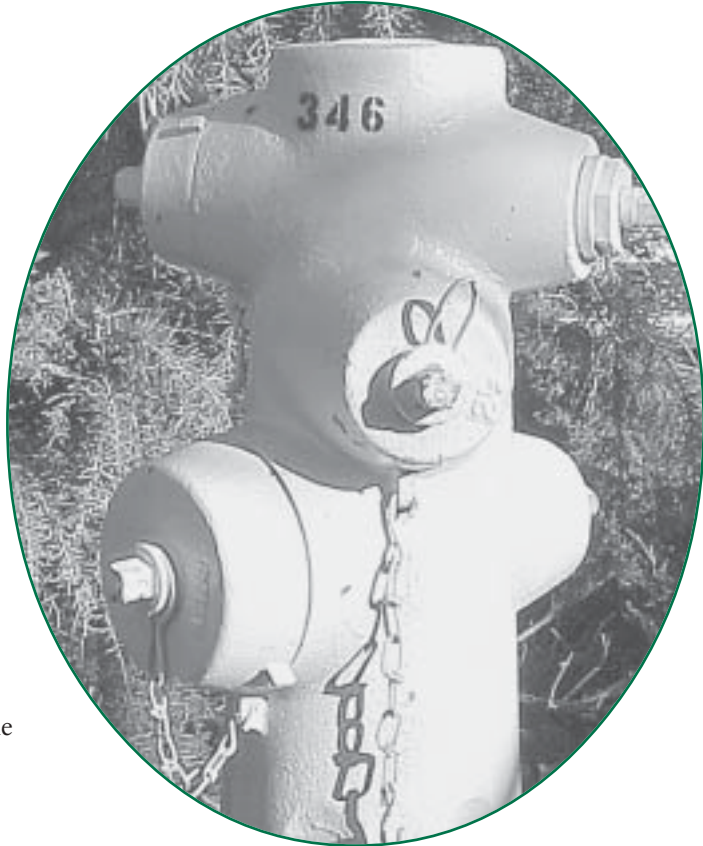
What's With The Water?

HYDRANT TESTING COMING SOON

IT'S NEARING that time of year when fire crews will be testing our fire hydrants to ensure that they're working properly. When a fire occurs, fire fighters need the hydrants to work properly.


Unfortunately, this testing sometimes temporarily affects the color of the water coming out of your tap due to the greater-than-normal water flow through the water main when a hydrant is tested. This extra flow of water occasionally picks up additional sediment.

If this discoloration occurs, let your tap run until your water runs clear. If problems persist, don't hesitate to contact the Public Works Department at 776-7337.



ARE YOUR PIPES ABOUT TO BURST?

Have you checked your water pressure regulator? A simple test can help prevent damage that might occur from high water pressure. The pressure in the water system needs to be kept high enough to get adequate flow to the furthest and highest points in your geographic area. Your water pressure regulator is one of your home's vital functional attachments that ensures that the pressure inside of your home's pipes does not exceed its capabilities. It is your responsibility to regularly inspect the regulator.

Contact the Public Works Department for a one-sheet description that tells how to perform this test. We'll even loan you a test gauge at no charge! Call 776-7337 and leave us your name and address. This sheet can also be downloaded from the City web site at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/whatsnew.htm and follow the link that says "Test Your Water Regulator." 

Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337 or jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov

United Way Has Referral Number

AT ONE time or another, everyone needs help. That's why the United Way has "First Call for Help." At First Call for Help, a trained information and referral specialist will help you find the service you need. They have more than 600 community agencies at their fingertips. The information is free and they are available from 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday. If you have a problem and need assistance, call 248-4636.

MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	5/7	7PM LIVE
	5/8	NOON REPLAY
	5/10	8PM REPLAY
	5/11	NOON REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	5/21	7PM LIVE
	5/22	NOON REPLAY
	5/24	8PM REPLAY
	5/25	NOON REPLAY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SESSION	5/28	7PM LIVE
	5/29	NOON REPLAY
	5/31	8PM REPLAY
	6/1	NOON REPLAY

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	5/13	7PM LIVE
	5/14	NOON REPLAY
	5/17	NOON REPLAY
	5/18	8PM REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	5/27	7PM LIVE
	5/28	NOON REPLAY
	5/31	NOON REPLAY
	6/1	8PM REPLAY

FIRE SAFETY FOR KIDS 9:00AM & 4:30PM DAILY
7PM FRIDAY

FUGITIVE WATCH 10:00AM & 5:00PM DAILY
THE BAY AREA'S MOST WANTED 8:00PM FRIDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Mother's Day • May 11th

Composting Workshop • May 14th

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th, from 7:00PM-9:00PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 918-4640.

24th Annual Mushroom Mardi Gras • May 24th & 25th

To learn more, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or environ@morgan-hill.ca.gov

Memorial Day Observed • May 26th

City offices are closed. Regular garbage and recycling services apply.

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Dennis Kennedy	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore Hedy L. Chang	778-0511
Councilmember Larry Carr	779-9622
Councilmember Greg Sellers	778-2370
Councilmember Steve Tate	779-6992
City Clerk Irma Torrez	779-7259
City Treasurer Michael Roorda	778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager J. Edward Tewes
City Attorney Helene L. Leichter
Assistant To The City Manager Melissa Stevenson Dile
Assistant To The City Manager Anthony Eulo
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director Garrett Toy
Community Development Director David Bischoff
Council Services and Records Manager Irma Torrez
Finance Director Jack Dilles
Human Resources Director Mary Kaye Fisher
Police Chief Gerald T. Galvin
Public Works Director Jim Ashcraft
Recreation and Community Services Manager Julie Spier

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assist. & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community & Cultural Center	782-0008
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation & Community Services	782-0008
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117
City Website: http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov	

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome.

Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or

environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

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MORGAN HILL, CA 95037

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